In the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 13, 16 and 20. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i - ii).

1. (Amended) An electronic handheld processing device comprising:

a memory storing demographic information, patient diagnosis information and billing information;

an interface to enable physicians to input billing and diagnosis information; and

an interface to intermittently communicate with an interface device for downloading billing and diagnosis information and receiving updated patient demographic information; and

an interface to inform physicians of changes in guidelines associated with billing codes.

4. (Amended) The electronic handheld processing device of claim 1, wherein the handheld processing device provides guideline notifications associated with different billing codes.

5. (Amended) The electronic handheld processing device of claim 4, wherein changes in guidelines associated with the billing codes are flagged by an alarm.

9. (Amended) A method for automating the billing process for physicians using an electronic handheld processing device the method comprising:

displaying patient demographic information on a screen of the handheld processing device;

displaying billing information on the screen of the handheld processing device;

selecting the required patient and billing information once a patient has been examined;

informing physicians of changes in guidelines associated with billing codes; and